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12-2019

December 2019, Volume 15, Number 4

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

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Recommended Citation

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections, "December 2019, Volume 15, Number 4" (2019).
Retrospect: News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University. 45.
<https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/retrospect/45>

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Retrospect

News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University

December 2019

Volume 15, Number 4



Manuscript Collection Spotlight

By Andrew Johnston, Asst. Dir. of Archives and Special Collections



S. S. Rock Hill Victory – Accession 1706

During World War II, the United States began a new ship building program due to the need for larger and faster cargo ships to support the war effort. The Victory Ship program began in 1943. These ships were named after allied countries, American colleges and universities, and for cities and towns across the country. One of these ships was the S. S. Rock Hill Victory named for our very own Rock Hill, SC. The S. S. Rock Hill Victory was launched on April 6, 1945 at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyards in Baltimore, Maryland with Ann Carothers, the daughter of Rock Hill Mayor Erwin Carothers, serving as sponsor. The Pettus Archives recently received from the York County Library the Christening bottle used by Ann Carothers during the launching ceremony and a commemorative album containing photographs of the ship, the ship's construction, and the christening ceremony.



Other World War II ships represented in the Winthrop Archives holdings include the [S. S. Winthrop Victory](#) launched on May 17, 1945 and the [S. S. David Bancroft Johnson](#) which was a Liberty Ship named for the former and First President of Winthrop. The S. S. David Bancroft Johnson was launched on January 13, 1944.

For more information on the Manuscript Collection, contact Andrew Johnston, Asst. Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Quote of the Quarter



Dr. Charles S. Davis [1910-1993] was named Winthrop's fifth president in 1959. He served until he retired in 1973. In a speech given at Davidson College on December 12, 1961, Davis said:

"...from a study of the liberal arts, an eager mind derives a power of abstraction, a general standard of taste, a scale of opinion. One learns to perceive objects not always near, but on the horizon."

For more information concerning the *Quote of the Quarter* please contact Gina White at (803) 323-2334 or whitegp@winthrop.edu.



From the Processing Archivist

By Carson Cope, Processing Archivist



If your research interests include Women's History and the role women have played in farm life and community life in South Carolina, the Betty Buff papers have something for you! Betty Buff is a South Carolina native who has contributed heavily to a variety of organizations concerned with farm and community life in the state. She has participated and held offices in the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET) from 1982 to present, the South Carolina Family and Community Leaders (SCFL) from 1974 to present, and the National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) from 1995 to present. These are just a few of the many organizations in which Betty has contributed or been involved. She has also been honored many times receiving awards such as the Southern Regional Agricultural and Rural Development Award, the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award, and the "A Palmetto Lady Award" from former South Carolina Governor Richard W. Riley. The Betty Buff Papers are complete. There are 167 boxes, 560 folders, and 10 bound volumes in the collection. This means that there are roughly 83,500 sheets of paper detailing this remarkable woman's life. Currently, an addition to the collection is being processed for public use. This addition to the Betty Buff Papers will provide researchers more information concerning Betty Buff and her role in organizations such as The Associated Countrywomen of the World, The Country Women's Council, The South Carolina Master Farm Homemaker's Guild, and The National Volunteer Outreach Network.

For more information on collections being processed, contact Carson Cope at archives@winthrop.edu or (803) 323-2334



Alumni Weekend 2019

By Katherine Baxley, Archives Student Intern



As a sophomore here at Winthrop University, I was able to experience the 2019 Reunion Weekend for the first time. I couldn't ask for a better way to spend the weekend. I was intrigued with the many amazing women I spoke with. I could see in their faces that they were happy to be home. As I spoke with the alumni, I was told about the days of fun activities and special times with friends. I laughed so hard at many of the stories. I couldn't believe that these alumni were able to make the trip out to see what their Winthrop University has become. I was completely star struck when I got to meet Mrs. Elizabeth Sims and Ms. Jeuel Bannister Esmacher from the 1939 and 1944 classes. I couldn't imagine meeting women who attended the same University I am currently attending over 70 years ago. I was extremely honored to speak with each one. Being involved in this year's Reunion Weekend has taught me that the future of Winthrop University is bright. As a current student, I am representing over 100 years of rich history and amazing memories which I have great respect for. I will always remember this great experience.





Rare Book Collection Spotlight

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

St. Nicholas Magazine



St. Nicholas Magazine was a popular American children's magazine that was first published in November 1873. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, it was designed for children aged five to eighteen. Children's author Mary Mapes Dodge served as the first editor. In 1881, Scribner's withdrew its share of ownership and the Century Company took over the publication of the magazine. The magazine featured fine adult writers and budding young authors. *St. Nicholas* also published the work of the best contemporary illustrators including Howard Pyle, Arthur Rackham, and Norman Rockwell. The magazine wisely changed with each passing decade but after 68 years, it ceased publication in November 1941.

The Pettus Archives has issues of *St. Nicholas* dating from 1899 to 1929. Below is a poem that appeared in the December 1919 issue by Florence Boyce Davis.

The Real St. Nick

Now here's the way that good St. Nick
Has always looked to me:
Well muffled in a scarlet coat
That reaches to his knee,
His cheeks as plump and round and red
As the reddest plum could be;
With whiskers floating out behind
Like cotton in the air,
And underneath his tasseled cap
A rim of wooly hair.
Ah, can't you see him? Bless his heart!
If I could have my pick,
Of all the saints of all the days,
I'd cling to good St. Nick.

He has a spanking reindeer team—
Of that we need no proof,
For haven't we all heard them go
Trit-trotting o'er the roof?
And St. Nick scales the chimney-shaft
And brushes off the drift,
And then comes hurtling downward
Like a giant chimney-swift
Of course, he might come in the door,
Quite decorous and grand,
But I hope he keeps to chimneys
Just as long as chimneys stand.

He comes a-stealing in at night, and never waits to knock
And chuckles softly as he fills each stocking and each sock,
And then hops nimbly in his sleigh and flourishes his whip.
And I hope that every Christmas-tide he makes a longer trip,
Till every child in every land may claim him for a friend!
And, oh, I hope he lives—and lives—until the world shall end!

For more information on the Rare Book Collection, contact Gina White, Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

A Century Ago... From the [December 24, 1909 issue of The Lantern \(Chester, S.C.\)](#):



“We are now at the season of the year when all is joy and gladness. When men's minds dismiss the cares and worries of business life and turn to cheerfulness, friends, and love. It is the time when men come nearer the feeling of true brotherhood and show some reflection of the Divine love. It is splendid to note this spirit and without it the world would be a poor place to live.”



News Flash from the Past

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

In December of 1919 news concerning the Great War was still being reported in newspapers over a year after the armistice. The following is an article from the [December 12 issue of *The Chester News*](#) concerning espionage during WWI.

Postage Stamps As A Spy Code

Marks, Whom England Has Just Deported to Germany, Saved His Life by Denouncing Associates



London, Nov. 25—Joseph Marks was deported to Germany this week after having saved his life by confession that he was a German spy and by turning State's evidence thus clinching the Government's case against his associates. Karl Lody and Lieut. [Ferdinand] Bushmann, both of whom were executed in the Tower of London. [Lody in Nov. 1914 and Bushmann in Oct. 1915] A weeping woman was at the Charing Cross station to see him off the Continental express. Marks had been in England since the early days of the war. He landed at a southern port with an album of foreign stamps, constituting a code by which he was to keep the German Admiralty informed of the movements of the British fleets and coast patrols. At no time did he make secret of his identity or deny that he was German-born. Scotland Yard suspected him and kept him under close surveillance, finally arresting him. Under searching examination by Sir Basily Thomson, Director of the British Secret Service, he broke down and confessed his mission. He said it was the policy of the German Intelligence Department to make use of any tool to further their plans. The department had even sent adventurous women to the capitals of Europe in order to lure men possessing official information and wheedle it from them. Marks was tried by court martial in Middlesex Guildhall. Owing to his confession, he was sentenced to penal servitude for an indefinite term, rather than to execution. He had been arrested in Tilbury by Scotland Yard detectives.

Speaking with a reporter at the railway station of his jail and other experiences, he said. "Bushmann and I were tried by the same court, and kept in Wandsworth jail, where we had long talks together. The night before his execution we had a farewell chat, in which he related to me the romantic circumstances of his courtship and marriage with the daughter of a Prussian millionaire. The next morning he went to execution with a smile on his face and came to salute as he stood before the firing squad that was to send him to his doom. I talked with several of the German spies who were shot. Every one of them met his death like a brave soldier."

Marks said he came of a well-known family in Aix-la-Chapelle. In the very beginning of the war the Germans suspected him of espionage and arrested him three times. Then they became convinced that he could be useful to them as a spy, and they sent him to England.

To view the entire December 12, 1919 issue of *The Chester News*, [click here](#).

For more information on the Winthrop newspaper files in the Archives contact Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

From the [December 8, 1969 issue of *The Johnsonian*](#):

WCRO Features Program



WCRO, Winthrop College Radio Station, will feature a special Christmas program on December 17, announced Cissy Moore, station manager. The program is under the direction of the radio class. It will include Christmas music, readings of seasonal poetry, and interviews with children from the Winthrop nursery. Mr. Roy Flynn, director of public relations at Winthrop said that he hoped the program could be played on local radio stations.



New Collection Spotlight

By Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist

“Fascinatin’ Facts of the Fairest Flowers of ‘44”



Recently, the Louise Pettus Archives acquired a wonderful bit of Winthrop history for the Class of 1944, who just weeks ago celebrated their 75th class reunion. The collection is *The Fascinatin’ Facts of the Fairest Flowers of ‘44*, a compilation of remembrances created for the Class of 1944 and their 25th reunion. As I read through the memories, I began recalling my own Winthrop experiences and wanted to pass along that opportunity to you all. So here are some the memories of the Class of 1944:

“Some crazy things we used to do...

- Bridge behind closed (locked) doors!
- Midnight trips down the circular fire escapes. Sunbathing on the roofs with tea and vinegar for lotion. Guarding the lights in the parlors for “daters”—finding excuses to go walking on campus with a boy. Talking to the cadets through windows after hours.
- Eating peanut butter and onion sandwiches at midnight.
- Being a day student during the war years had its ups and downs. Fixing flats was an extracurricular activity and getting “captured” at Newport during army maneuvers sticks in my mind.
- Taking pictures in the snow with bathing suits on. Looking longingly at the air cadets on campus. Using any excuse to dress out of uniform.
- I received my first home permanent with cardboard curlers and it took six of us fourteen hours to do it.
- Hitchhiking to Charlotte on weekends for Chow Mein.
- Studying in the bathtub at 4:00 am.
- Riding Laundry bags down the hall in Roddey.
- Rubbing hair with carbon paper to make it blue-black.”

These are just a few of the great stories in this collection. If you are interested in the whole collection or records relating to another class at Winthrop, please contact us. Thank you for reading.

For more information on this collection or other collections in the Louise Pettus Archives, please contact us or take a look at our website ((803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu).



From the [December 20, 1935 issue of *The Johnsonian*](#): (click here to view the whole issue)

Furman Wins in Soccer Game Friday

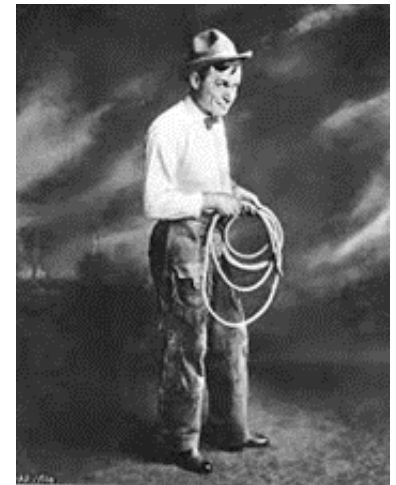
Furman University won 2 to 1 over Clemson College Friday afternoon in the Winthrop College bowl in the first soccer game ever played in Rock Hill. The match was the opening feature of the two-day meeting of the South Carolina Physical Education Association.



Photographs of the Quarter

By Brittany S. Pigford, Archivist

Will Rogers



If you were on google a few weeks ago you might have noticed a "google doodle" in honor of Will Rogers on what would have been his 140th birthday. Did you know that on December 1, 1925 Will Rogers performed at Winthrop?

William Penn Adair "Will" Rogers (November 4, 1879 – August 15, 1935) was a stage and motion picture actor, vaudeville performer, American cowboy, humorist, newspaper columnist, and social commentator. Known as "Oklahoma's Favorite Son", Rogers was born to a prominent Cherokee Nation family in Indian Territory (now part of Oklahoma). He traveled around the world three times, made 71 movies (50 silent films and 21 "talkies"), and wrote more than 4,000 nationally syndicated newspaper columns. By the mid-1930s, the American people adored Rogers. He was the leading political wit of his time, and was the highest paid Hollywood movie star. Rogers died in 1935 with aviator Wiley Post, when their small airplane crashed in northern Alaska. Rogers's vaudeville rope act led to success in the Ziegfeld Folies, which in turn led to the first of his many movie contracts. His 1920s syndicated newspaper column and his radio appearances increased his visibility and popularity. Rogers crusaded for aviation expansion, and provided Americans with first-hand accounts of his world travels. His earthy anecdotes and folksy style allowed him to poke fun at gangsters, prohibition, politicians, government programs, and a host of other controversial topics in a way that was appreciated by a national audience, with no one offended. His aphorisms, couched in humorous terms, were widely quoted: "I am not a member of an organized political party. I am a Democrat." Another widely quoted Will Rogers comment was "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." Rogers even provided an epigram on his most famous epigram: "When I die, my epitaph, or whatever you call those signs on gravestones, is going to read: 'I joked about every prominent man of my time, but I never met a man I didn't like.' I am so proud of that, I can hardly wait to die so it can be carved."

For more information on the Photograph Collection, contact Brittany Pigford, Archivist at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

Luminaria Hoped to Become Tradition



Sigma Phi Epsilon hopes to begin a new Christmas tradition at Winthrop. The fraternity will be placing lighted candles in sand-filled white paper bags in front of the college Wednesday night from 7:00-11:00 pm. Traditionally known as a Luminaria, the ceremony symbolizes as the light made for the way of the Christ Child. "It is usually done on Christmas Eve, but we did it earlier because of the break," said Victor Cozzone, Sig Ep activities chairman. The candles will be placed along both sides of Oakland Avenue extending the length of the college. "We hope to start a new Christmas tradition at Winthrop. It seems that the Tree Lighting in front of the Tillman building is the only one."

Cozzone said. The Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority will also help distribute the candles. All materials to be used in the ceremony were donated. The candles were donated by the Dean of Students Office, the sand by the Rock Hill Concrete Company and the paper bags by Epicure. "The Sig Eps would like to thank Tom Claxton for the use of his truck in this project," Cozzone said. Cozzone added that if the project was successful, candles may be placed on the college campus during next year's Lumniaria.

For more information, contact the Pettus Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Collegiate Contemplations

By Gina Price White, Dir., Archives and Special Collections

From the November 1920 issue of *The Winthrop Journal*, Winthrop's student literary magazine a poem written by a student listed only by the initials S. W.:

Destiny

I am light
Created out of some strange unison
By the hand of the Infinite:
Spark leaps to saturated wick
And I come,
To struggle round the cycle of existence
In my chimneyed sphere
While there is need of me.

Then by a Breath, blown out,
Not plunged into eternal darkness,
But swept into the splendor
Of the star-emblazoned,
God-lit,
Night!

For information on the Archives' collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections

Telephone: (803) 323-2334

E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu Website: <http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home>

Click here for previous issues of [Retrospect](#)